

HONORING THE NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC PERFORMANCE AT CARNEGIE HALL IN NEW YORK CITY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nashville Symphony on the occasion of its historic first performance at Carnegie Hall in New York City. In particular, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of Executive Director Alan D. Valentine and his staff, conductor Kenneth Schermerhorn, Associate Conductor Karen Lynne Deal, and the Board of Directors including Symphony Campaign 2000 Chairman Martha Ingram. Although every person involved played a role in this effort, these individuals in particular gave of their time and energy to ensure the symphony would have the opportunity to shine in the national spotlight.

On September 25th the Nashville Symphony culminated an East Coast tour by performing for the first time at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Well over a thousand Middle Tennesseans attended the sold-out show including Mayor Bill Purcell, my wife Mary, and me. The stunning performance garnered rave reviews from the New York Times and the Tennessean proving to the nation what Nashville has known for years about the symphony's excellence in artistry and skill.

Now in its 55th season, the Nashville Symphony has entertained and educated thousands of individuals at performances across the nation. At home, the symphony has earned the respect of our community through years of perseverance through its varied history. With the assistance and commitment of individuals like Martha Ingram, the Nashville Symphony has graciously survived, and today boasts a roster of eighty-seven contracted musicians. In fact the group just released the new compact discs, "Howard Hanson: Orchestral Works Volume I," and "Charles Ives: Symphony No. 2," on the Naxos label to coincide with their Carnegie Hall debut.

The symphony is the largest performing arts organization in Tennessee, and regularly partners with the community and area schools to educate the public about symphonic music and classical music. Studies have shown that exposing children to music at a young age increases their ability to learn and retain information. In fact, my two daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel began playing the violin at the age of five. Both have benefited tremendously from their exposure to symphonic and classical music.

In the same way, each young person should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in the arts. The symphony plays a vital role in educating young people in our area by offering a number of educational opportunities such as Ensembles in the Schools; Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest; String and Band Bash; AmSouth Classroom Classics; and Young People's Concerts at War Memorial Auditorium. The symphony reaches 80,000 children in Middle Tennessee each year. This commitment to exposing future generations to the arts is to be commended.

The history of the symphony dates back to 1920 when a group of Nashville musicians

formed the "Symphony Society" with its own orchestra and roster. Unfortunately that group fell to the wayside during the Great Depression. However, the cause was taken up again after World War II, when Nashville native and war veteran Walter Sharp returned home from the war on a mission to form a symphony orchestra in his hometown. Sharp succeeded and gained the support of the community when he founded the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

Today the Nashville Symphony performs more than 200 shows per year. Many of these performances are in conjunction with other area arts organizations such as Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, Nashville Institute for the Arts, and Tennessee Performing Arts Center. In addition the symphony has performed with Luciano Pavarotti, Charlotte Church, Amy Grant, Vince Gill, and many other internationally renowned artists.

With an exceptional donor base and strong community support, the Nashville Symphony stands on a strong foundation to entertain and enlighten new generations in the 21st Century and beyond.

"A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE ARMSTEAD, TOP SENIOR VOLUNTEER"

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, senior citizens across the country are setting an example for all of us of the value and virtue of volunteerism, but Ernie Armstead of San Bernardino is a standout even among these hard-working civic champions. The senior volunteers and those who work with them in San Bernardino County, who know the hard work of Ernie Armstead, were delighted this year when he was one of five recipients of the prestigious National Community Spirit Award from the American Association of Retired Persons.

Mr. Armstead, who is retired from the Air Force and the U.S. Postal Service, has for the past six years been organizing programs to educate the senior population about everything from Medicare to legislative issues to how to get help with tax preparation. He now serves as community relations coordinator for 36 area AARP chapters, and has been a member of the County Senior Citizens Affairs Commission since 1995. He is chairman of the commission's Senior Housing Subcommittee, and as liaison between the commission and AARP.

Among his accomplishments, Mr. Armstead created an innovative program in my hometown of Redlands known as Dinner and Dialogue, which brings together people in their 50s and 60s for a meal and discussion of issues that concern them. The popular dinners have brought in speakers from around the county to discuss senior programs and answer questions. It is one of many examples of opportunities Mr. Armstead seeks for seniors to create and expand networks across political, ethnic and age groups.

Mr. Speaker, all of the people of San Bernardino County benefit from the hard work by exemplary senior volunteers like Ernie Annstead. I ask you and my colleagues to join

me in congratulating him on being honored with the National Community Spirit Award, and wish him well in his continuing volunteer work in our county.

A TRIBUTE TO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sing praise for Saint Joseph's Parish in my hometown of Bay City, Michigan as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. The church has been the spiritual beacon of a fine neighborhood and, indeed, of the entire community.

Since the middle of the 19th Century, the church has stood as the centerpiece of the city's Northeast Side, drawing family and friends into the light of Christian love and charity.

The congregation's commitment to the community remains as strong today as it was when Father Kindekens first suggested in the late 1840s that Catholic settlers build a church in which he and visiting priests could minister to the needs of parishioners. By 1850, work began on the first Catholic church in the Saginaw Valley—Saint Joseph's.

In the beginning, just 20 families formed the foundation of the church. Six years later, the burgeoning parish counted about 2,000 members on its rolls and by 1868 that number had more than tripled. As the years went by, the church expanded to include additional buildings and educational facilities.

The church's mission remains unchanged today as leaders continue to offer strong spiritual and academic training to the neighborhood's families and many beyond its environs. In fact, the church holds a special place in my heart because it is the home parish of my wife, Vicki, who received her religious and early educational guidance under the tutelage of St. Joseph's clergy, nuns, teachers and parishioners.

Those who live in the shadow of St. Joseph's and those who have been touched by its influence cannot help but smell the sweetness of an angel's breath at their side and feel the hand of God on their shoulder.

HONORING RUTH BEASLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Ruth Beasley of Gypsum, Colorado. Ruth spent nearly a third of her life giving back to the community in which she was raised and her contributions are immeasurable. As family and friends mourn her passing, I would like to pay tribute to this fine woman.

Ruth was born and raised in Gypsum and spent her entire life in the Eagle Valley. Her fondest memories of her younger years include her first trip to Denver to compete in a